

DILLSBURG BANNER

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Twenty-five cents

Franklin Township chooses Northern York Regional

By Marie Chornick

In a packed meeting room Tuesday night, residents of Franklin Township made their opinion known to the Board of Supervisors: We do not want Northern York Regional Police protection.

The Board also made their view point clear by unanimously passing a motion to sign a two year contract with Northern York Regional Police at a 1991 cost of \$59,080. The package would include a seat on the board. The cost for 1992 protection is open.

Response time of a department based in Dover, availability of police back-up, visibility, and alternate solutions were considerations expressed by the public and addressed by the board at various times throughout the meeting and during a five minute break following their decision.

The key concern of residents present was response time. Clyde Bertram, constable for Franklin Township says he's "willing to bet Dover response time to be 40-60 minutes."

Lastoskie said that response time should be similar to Carroll Township or Dillsburg Borough police departments. "Just as favorable regardless of department." A notion to which the crowd expressed an overwhelming sigh of disbelief.

Later after the decision, supervisor Stough said response time should be "3 minutes, maybe 15" if they are in the area. According to Stough, the closest point Northern Regional patrols is 6-10 miles from Franklin Township. One of the farthest points would be Conewago Township, said Stough.

Laurin Fleming, a resident and emergency medical technician (EMT) says when he's confronted with an unexpected life threatening situation he is "comforted to find the police there shortly." He said Dillsburg and Carroll work well with the ambulance crew and that he respects them.

Presently, Carroll Township and Dillsburg back each other up when faced with an emergency situation, Fleming said after the decision. He said he does not know how the three departments will work together, or even if they will.

During a five minute recess, Stough said that he "does not expect Carroll or Dillsburg to respond" to an emergency situation, even if they are only five minutes away. He expects Northern Regional to handle the situation. Stough feels, however, that all three, Carroll, Dillsburg and Northern Regional "will support each other when it comes to handling a situation in the township." He also said he does anticipate a back up system to evolve between Carroll, Dillsburg and Northern Regional.

Present controversy surrounding Northern Regional's response time, as reported in a York paper, has turned Pam Smith against that department. "We need Dillsburg or Carroll Township," she stated. "I think we need regionalization...we should all work and strive towards that," she said. "And it is a shame as neighbors we can't do that," she added.

Lastoskie explained that he did work on a steering committee in 1988 for approximately 10 months to determine the feasibility of forming a regionalized police force between Dillsburg Borough, Carroll Township, Monaghan Township, Franklin Township, Franklinton and Warrington Township. He said the committee disbanded due to a lack of interest. Later he said differences over issues such as where a building would be located and who would be chief were major factors in not considering the plan.

Diane Phillips was in favor of Dillsburg Police because they were visible and provided a lot of coverage.

According to the contract with Northern Regional, Franklin



Franklin township supervisors voted unanimously to contract with Northern York Regional for police service.

The 20 or so voters in attendance were overwhelming opposed to bringing in an outside police force.

Township will be buying four units or 40 hours per week. Their current contract with Dillsburg Borough is for 6 hours per day or 42 hours per week.

Charles Wicker, part owner of Wicker's Sunoco in the township, questioned the response time, during inclement weather, especially when the two major routes between Franklin Township and Dover, Old York Road and Route 74, become impassable.

He also feels that the township will be paying for more traveling time than actual coverage. Jim Wicker, Charles' brother and partner, questioned whether there would be extra charges incurred, and felt that the "tax dollar should stay within the municipality."

Lastoskie said all services - patrol, investigative and incident, are built into the six hours coverage. Court time is extra, the same as with Dillsburg. Lastoskie did say traveling time was included as part of the 40 hour per week coverage.

If a change is to be made, why not go with Carroll Township, a "proven product" asked Michael Dobrinoff, resident. Since he will be in Sandia Arabia next month, he also expressed his concern of an hour's wait for Northern Regional to come up from Dover, if something were to happen to his family.

According to Stough, Carroll Township's bid of \$65,000 was only verbal, a last minute deal, with no written contract of the details made available for the board to review.

The public's response to the change, Stough said, is not too much different from what occurred when they switched to Dillsburg three years ago. "Biggest mistake," members are not experienced" were some of the comments, yet they "had no problem with the service," said Stough.

"We'll contribute our fair share, let's see where the money goes," said resident Arthur Litoff in reference to the Dillsburg Police budget.

On October 30, according to Lastoskie, the first figure for the 1991 Dillsburg Police budget was presented by John Shambaugh and John Creavey, of the Dillsburg Police and Safety Committee. The figure was \$244,000, which was later reduced to \$225,000.

Expecting to pay \$56,000 or 25% of the budget, as they have done in the past, they learned differently by Creavey, said Lastoskie. Creavey wanted Franklin Township to pay \$85,000, (a \$32,440 increase).

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See Franklinton township contracts with Northern Regional.

Borough manager resigns

by Mary Lou Bytof

Borough Manager/Engineer J. Chadwick Wagner resigned Tuesday evening.

The resignation becomes effective March 30. However, Wagner plans to use accrued vacation days throughout the month of March.

"I'm surprised I didn't expect this," Council President John Creavey said of the resignation.

"Chad has done a good job for the community and he will be missed," Creavey added.

The council advised its policy and personnel committee to advertise for a borough manager, and later advertise to contract with an engineering firm.

Councilmen John Shambaugh and Rick Baker, both engineers, said it will be difficult to replace the borough manager/engineer at the salary Wagner receives.

According to Shambaugh, chairman of the council's budget and finance committee, Wagner's annual salary for 1991 is \$34,000.

Wagner has served Dillsburg as the borough engineer since 1975.

A borough resident since 1952, he previously had worked as an engineer for the Capitol Engineering Corporation in Dillsburg, and as a consulting engineer for a New York firm. During his employment with the New York firm, Wagner worked in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and even in Africa while maintaining his residence in the borough.

In the past 16 years, the borough manager watched the town grow moderately. The sewer system was expanded outside the borough, and the customers using the water system grew by 75 percent, Wagner said.

"I enjoyed serving the people of Dillsburg. It was a pleasure," he said Wednesday morning.

Wagner said he had been planning to retire for several months.

Correction

Last week, it was erroneously reported that the police department received \$15,000 for the sale of a cruiser.

The department took in \$15,000 worth of fines and forfeitures, and received \$2,000 for the sale of the car.

The correct phone number for Brenda Barndt is (301) 550-4964.

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Dillsburg keeps police; plans tax hike

By Mary Lou Bytof

The Dillsburg Police Department will provide 24-hour protection in the borough in 1991, Council President John Creavey told approximately 45 residents Tuesday evening.

Early in the meeting, Creavey assured the visitors that the council had chosen the option of retaining the police department.

"At this late date in the year and given other factors, the council has decided to stay with the borough police department," Creavey said. "We'll see how we can make it work."

One way the council plans to "make it work" is by raising taxes.

According to the proposed 1991 budget, which shows a \$35,000 deficit, the council will raise real estate and occupation taxes.

The real estate tax will be raised from 1.65 mills to 2 mills. In simple terms, taxes on a \$100,000 home will increase from \$165 to \$200, and taxes on a \$50,000 home will rise from \$82.50 to \$100 a year.

The occupation tax increase is more substantial, rising from 950 mills to 1700 mills. That's roughly a 75 percent increase, according to Creavey.

The council decided to concentrate the tax hike on the occupation tax to lift the burden away from the elderly and distribute it among younger people in the work force, Creavey explained.

The council plans to adopt the \$410,040 budget on December 27. Early Tuesday evening, the council still was uncertain whether nearby Franklin Township would continue its contract with the Dillsburg Police Department. Later that evening, Franklin Township decided to enter into a two-year contract with the Northern York Regional Police Department at a cost of \$59,080 for six hours of service per day. In doing so, the township rejected Dillsburg's latest offer of \$64,800 for similar protection.

Last year, Dillsburg Borough received \$52,500 for the six-hour-a-day coverage of Franklin Township.

With this revenue gone, the council and department eventually worked together to arrive at a police budget of \$170,000 for the borough.

A budget of \$231,000 originally submitted by Police Chief Giff Smith was whittled down to \$170,500 to cover only the borough for 1991. This

newly altered police budget, a joint effort of the police department and the council, indicates spending cuts on vehicles, operations, equipment, gas and oil, Creavey said.

The budget shows no reduction of police personnel or salaries. The civilian secretary will remain as a parttime employee, which she is currently.

The consensus of the residents who addressed the council Tuesday evening was that the police provide prompt, effective service. However, some individuals, as well as the council, indicated the department needs to become more efficient.

"I think the efficiency of the police department has been challenged," former fire chief Wally Foreman told the council. Foreman presented a chart comparing the costs of police protection in Dillsburg with other area departments on a per capita basis.

Foreman surveyed Upper Allen and Carroll Townships, Mechanicsburg and Shiremanstown Boroughs, as well as other localities. According to Foreman's figures, Dillsburg residents are paying almost twice as much for police protection on a per capita level as

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Dillsburg Borough plans tax hike



The Dillsburg Borough Council meeting had to be moved from the borough building to Monaghan Presbyterian Hall to accommodate the large turnout.

Photo by David March